

Why Congressman Buchanan Opposes the Health Care bill:

Tax Increases:

The bill includes \$570 billion in new tax increases, including tax increases on small businesses, middle-income families, hospitals, seniors, medical device makers, among others. The National Federation of Independent Businesses estimates that an employer mandate will cost our fragile economy 1.6 million jobs. There are so many new taxes in this bill that it is estimated that up to 16,500 new Internal Revenue Service agents will be needed to collect, examine and audit new tax information mandated on families and small businesses.

Massive Cuts to Medicare:

The bill cuts over \$500 billion in critical Medicare services. Over \$200 billion would be cut from the popular Medicare Advantage program, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates these cuts will force 2 million seniors off their current plans. Currently, about 30,000 seniors in FL-13 receive their Medicare benefits from Medicare Advantage. Hospitals are cut by over \$100 billion, nursing homes by \$15 billion, and hospice services by \$7 billion. The Obama Administration's own health analyst concluded these cuts will threaten seniors' access to Medicare services and may force health providers to stop accepting Medicare patients altogether.

Deficit Spending:

The bill includes \$1 Trillion in new spending we can't afford, creating a new entitlement spending program that, according to some experts this bill will cost \$2.5 trillion once fully implemented. Adding \$662 billion to our already record-high \$1.4 trillion budget deficit.

Backroom Deals:

The now infamous "Cornhusker Kickback" got "fixed" by expanding it to every state. The "Louisiana Purchase" sends an extra \$300 million in extra Medicaid payments to Louisiana. Tennessee will receive almost \$100 million in extra assistance too. The "Connecticut" deal will give \$100 million for a single hospital in Connecticut. A special provision was inserted that only helps the residents of Libby, Montana. This kind of backroom deal-making is why the American people believe Washington is broken.

Heavy Hand of Government:

This health care bill creates a new Washington bureaucracy -- nearly 160 new boards, commissions, and programs. Further, it will be illegal to have insurance that is not approved by the federal government. The federal government will decide for you what health insurance you can and cannot purchase. The sweeping legislation also includes \$17 billion in new taxes on Americans who do not comply with the individual mandate to have health insurance, \$52 billion in new taxes on employers that do not provide health coverage deemed "acceptable" or "affordable" by government bureaucrats.